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JOHN CHIANG
MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: (213) 239-8506

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEMBER JOHN CHIANG OFFERS FREE HOMEOWNER AND RENTER ASSISTANCE CLAIM PREPARATION AT HIS DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES OFFICE

John Chiang, Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), announced today that his office will once again be providing free homeowner and renter assistance claim preparation to taxpayers from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. from now until June 30, 2005, the deadline for filing a claim.

The Homeowner Assistance Claim allows claimants to receive a once-a-year payment from the state of California based on a portion of their property taxes. The Renter Assistance Claim allows the claimant to receive a payment based on a portion of their property taxes paid indirectly through rent payments. In order to qualify, the applicant must be over 62 years of age or blind or disabled, as of December 31, 2003. Qualified applicants may receive up to \$472.60 for homeowner's assistance or up to \$347.50 for renter's assistance. The amount of actual monetary assistance received is dependent on total household income, up to a maximum of \$38,505 for 2003. For individuals who owned a business or rental property, gross household income cannot exceed \$70,009 in 2002, including all non-cash business expenses such as depreciation, amortization and depletion.

Due to budget constraints, the Franchise Tax Board field offices will not be able to provide homeowner or renter assistance claim preparation as they have in past years. John Chiang's office will be able to help those eligible for homeowners and renters assistance. In addition to the assistance available at John Chiang's office, other volunteer sites throughout Los Angeles County will be able to provide help. Individuals wanting further information on the Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program can call the Franchise Tax Board at (800) 868-4171 or visit www.ftb.ca.gov.

"As a Member of the Board of Equalization, I look forward to providing help to eligible taxpayers in light of the unfortunate limits in state resources," John Chiang stated.

John Chiang, a resident of Los Angeles, has served on the BOE since 1997. During his tenure, he has also served as Chair of the following BOE Committees: Business Taxes; Customer Services and Administrative Efficiency; and Technology and Administration.

Taxpayers who wish to obtain homeowner or renter assistance claim assistance from John Chiang's Office should call (213) 239-8506 to schedule an appointment.

John Chiang's Office address is:

660 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2050
Downtown Los Angeles

Located at 7th and Figueroa (above the MTA Metro Center Station)-John Chiang's Office is at the crossroads of the Red Line and the Blue Line, linking transit riders throughout Los Angeles County. Taxpayers using public transportation may access John Chiang's Office via the MTA's Metro Bus, Rail and MetroRapid Bus systems, as well as via LADOT's DASH buses and municipal operators such as Foothill Transit, from the San Gabriel Valley, and Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus.

Mr. Chiang's Office is wheelchair accessible.

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